Performance of SAIL

487. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the profits earned by the Steel Authority of India during the last five years;

(b) whether Government are satisfied with the performance of SAIL; and

(c) if not, what measures are contemplated to restructure SAIL, so as to improve its profit performance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) Net profit/loss position (before tax) of Steel Authority of India Limited during the last five years is as under:

1995-%	F996=97	1997-~98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01 (upto Dec, 2000)
1319	588	149	—1618	—1720	—698

(b) and (c): Measures taken/being taken to improve profit performance of SAIL *inter-alia* include:

(i) Business and financial restructuring of SAIL with a view to improve its functioning and enabling the company concentrate on its core business aimed at increasing its competitiveness.

(ii) intensive cost control drive;

(iii) bare minimum capital expenditure.

(iv) market oriented product-mix, increasing sales network, greater focus on customer satisfaction, etc.

(v) implementation of voluntary retirement scheme for right sizing the manpower.

(vi) thrust on reduction of inventory.

As a result of restructuring and other measures taken, company'? loss reduced to Rs. 698 crores in the first three quarters of years from Rs.2065 crores in the corresponding period last year, thereby incurring reduct'on in loss by 66%.